WAID • AUGUSTYN • KITSON • BAIR

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JLA™ YEAR ONE

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UNDER PRESSURE!

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THIS IS
MY HOME.

FROM HERE, I DIRECT SEVEN MIGHTY WARRIORS TO A FAR-DISTANT BATTLEGROUND, THIRD FROM ITS STAR...

...THERE TO DETERMINE WHICH COMBATANT WILL BE LEFT STANDING... WHICH ONE WILL INHERIT OUR EMPIRE.

I FOLLOW.

THEIR WAR IS OVER BEFORE IT BEGINS.

THEY ARE DEFEATED WITH HUMILIATING EASE BY MERE METACARBONS.

I AM SPARED THEIR FATE ONLY TO SUFFER MY OWN TORTURE.

MY CORPOREAL FORM IS DAMAGED FROM THE JOURNEY. IT WILL NOT ADAPT TO THIS MUDBALL'S FRIGID CLIMATE, ITS NOXIOUS ATMOSPHERE.

I AM FOUND BY NATIVES WHO GLEAN MY PLIGHT...

...WHO AID ME IN MY STRUGGLE TO ABANDON MY WOUNDED SOUL-SHEATH...

...AND FIND REFUGE FOR MY CONSCIOUSNESS IN AN UNSUSPECTING CARBON.

HIS NAME IS SIMON CAAA

AAAAARRR!

IT'S JUST...

:AHUH
:AHUH
:AHUH

...JUST A DREAM. THAT'S ALL IT IS. THAT'S ALL IT HAS BEEN...

...EVERY NIGHT...

...FOR THE PAST...

...FOUR...

...MONTHS...!

JLA

SNAP! SNAP!

FLASH? DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ON THE SCENE.

HAVEN'T GLOMMED ANY JLAERS HERE FOR DAYS.

SNAP SNAP

MY UNCLE SIMON'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU GUYS.

TELL HIM MORALE'S A LITTLE LOW. I CAN'T BELIEVE J'ONN BETRAYED US LIKE HE DID. SPYING ON US... BUILDING FILES ON US...

CANARY'S CYNICAL AS IT IS, AND AQUAMAN... I KEEP EXPECTING HIM TO SWIM OFF IN DISGUST. HE'S JUST WAITING FOR THE REST OF US TO TURN ON HIM NOW.

SOMETHING LIKE THIS CRIPPLE'S EVERYONE'S TRUST.

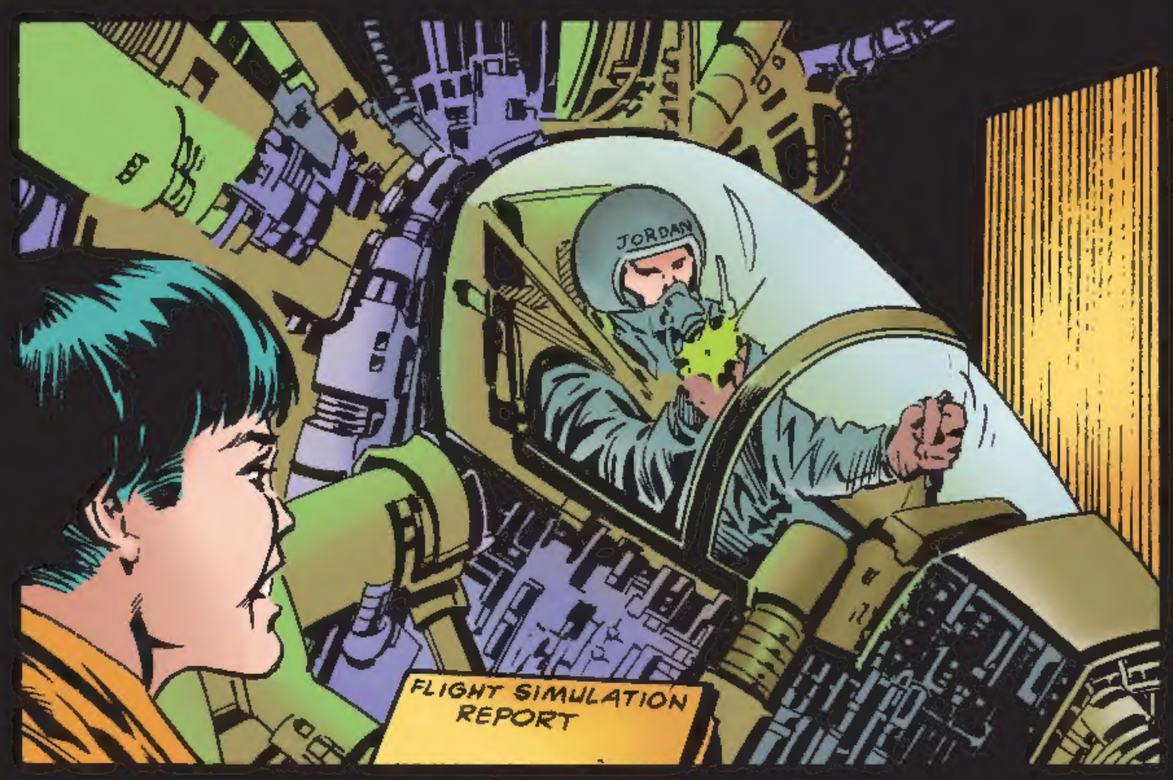
YEAH, WELL... THINK EVERYBODY CAN PUT THEIR PARANOIA ASIDE LONG ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THIS?

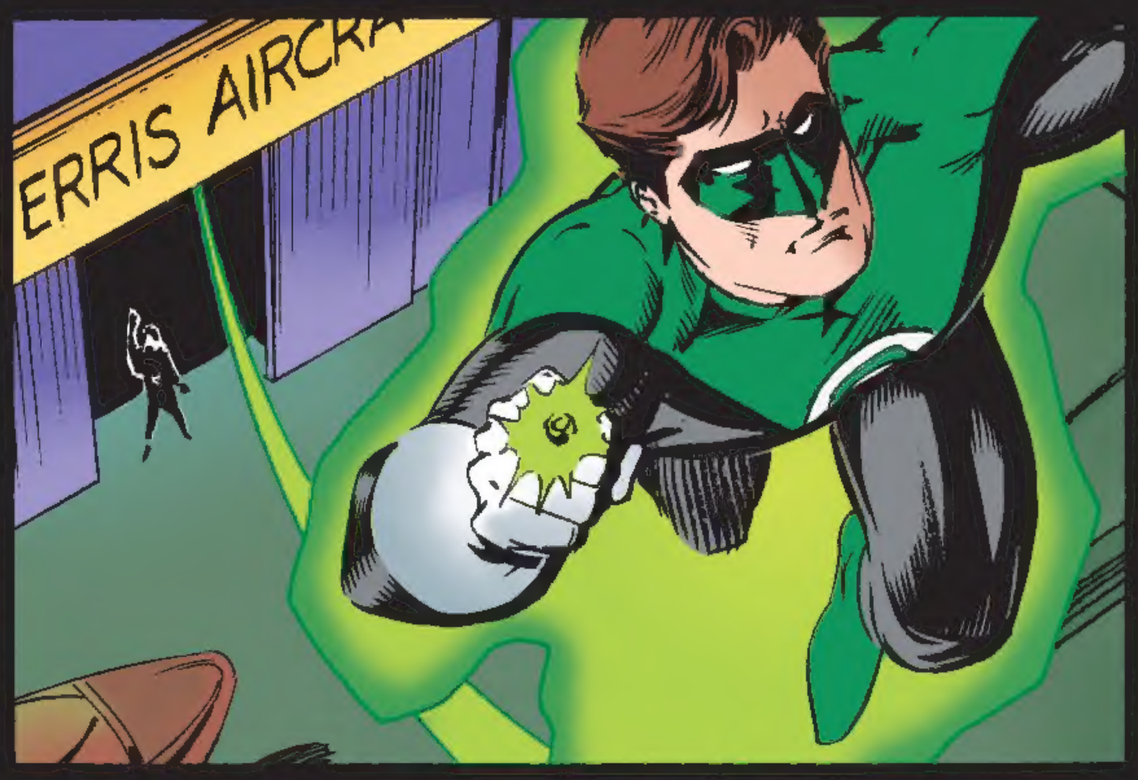
WHAT THE...?

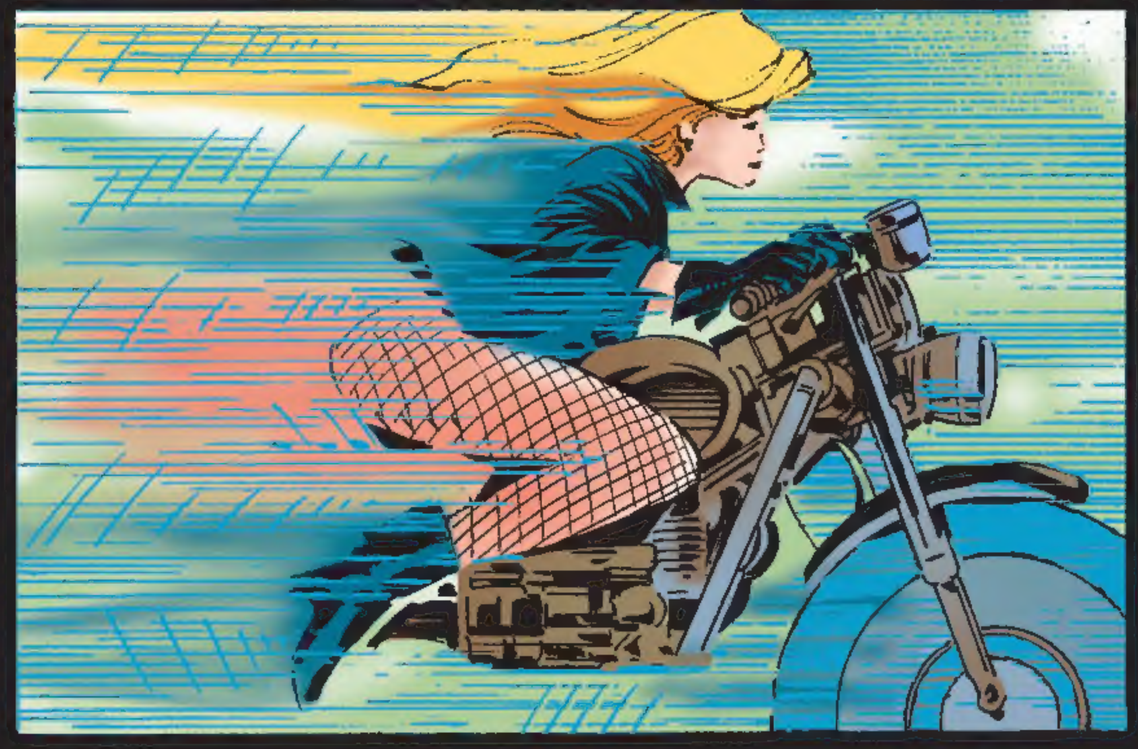
SNAPPER, AM I READING THAT RIGHT?

AS RAIN. YOU'RE THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

SEND OUT THE SIGNAL!







CHANGE THE WORLD

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LANTERN-- ANY SIGN OF J'ONN?

I'VE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW. NOTHING.

GREAT. HE'S PROBABLY TOLD LOCUS EVERY-THING ABOUT US BY NOW... WHERE WE LIVE, WHO OUR FRIENDS ARE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS DO IN WHATEVER YOUR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES ARE-- BUT I'M AFRAID TO GO TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT WE GET FOR TRUSTING A STRANGER. WHAT'S UP?

SNAPPER FOUND THREE SEPARATE GLOBAL DISTURBANCES LINKED BY A COMMON ENERGY SIGNATURE. THE NORTH POLAR ICECAP IS MELTING, AND FAST--

--THERE'S A SEISMIC DISTURBANCE IN THE MARIANA TRENCH--

--AND SOMETHING LOW-LEVEL ATMOSPHERIC IS HAPPENING IN CALIFORNIA'S REDWOOD FOREST. ANYONE THINK THIS SMELLS LIKE THE LOCUS GROUP'S PROMISED "ARMAGEDDON"?

MY GUESS. PRIORITIES?

WELL, I'D SAY--

THE REDWOOD SITUATION SEEMS TO BE THE LEAST CRITICAL. FLASH, YOU AND CANARY INVESTIGATE THE ARCTIC WARMING.

AQUAMAN AND I WILL EXPLORE THE OCEAN FLOOR. WE'LL RENDEZ-VOUS IN CALIFORNIA.

LET'S GO, PEOPLE. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT J'ONN LATER. HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.

KA-RACK

THANKS FOR RUNNING *INTERFERENCE*. ONLY WAY TO NAVIGATE *CHOPPY WATERS* IS TO MOVE IN A *STRAIGHT LINE*.

I'M AFRAID TO SLEEP, TOO, BY THE WAY. I DON'T KNOW *WHO* TO TRUST ANYMORE.

WELL, THERE'S *ME* RIGHT?

...

WHAT? SUDDENLY I MAKE YOU *UNCOMFORTABLE?*

NOT... WELL... WE JUST HAVEN'T BEEN THIS... *CLOSE* BEFORE. PHYSICALLY. AND MY *FIANCÉE* IS ALREADY *SUSPICIOUS* ABOUT--

WHOA. *WHOA. FIANCÉE?*

KA-RACK

YOU *MUTTERED* THAT YOU HAD A *GIRLFRIEND*. YOU DECLARED *ZERO* ABOUT BEING *ENGAGED!*

DON'T BE MAD. I--

DON'T TELL ME HOW TO FEEL. I GET *ENOUGH* OF THAT, THANK YOU.

J'ONN JUST WENT TO *SHOW*. YOU THINK YOU *KNOW* SOMEBODY, AND--

I'M FEELING SOMETHING.

SHAME?

SOMETHING ON A *VIBRATIONAL* LEVEL.

RADIO WAVES, MAYBE, OR--

UH-OH.

SSSSSSS

SSLLLSSSHHH

THIS IS *ARCTIC WATER*. HOW COME I'M NOT *FREEZING*?

BECAUSE THE WHOLE AREA'S BEING *IRRADIATED*--

--WITH MICROWAVE ENERGY.

FIGURES. MELTING THE CAP WITH HEATED AIR WOULD TAKE FOREVER. BETTER TO ACCELERATE ALL THE MOLECULAR MOTION IN THE AREA.

AT THIS RATE, THE NORTH POLE WILL BE TROPICAL BY TOMORROW. GLOBAL FLOODING WILL BE DISASTROUS.

PROBLEM IS, WE CAN'T GET NEAR THAT MAGNETRON WITHOUT BEING COOKED.

WE'RE UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE AS IT IS.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT! MOVE!

THWAM!

WELCOME. WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

LOCUS AGENT, I PRESUME?

CLEVER DEDUCTION, BLACK CANARY. WE HAVE INDEED ADAPTED OUR BODIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A CHANGED EARTH...

...FREE OF YOUR INTERFERENCE!

FSSHH!

PLEASE. YOU DON'T THINK I WAS MADE *INVULNERABLE* TO YOUR *POWER?*

WHEN I WANT YOU TO *SCREAM,* *BELIEVE* ME... YOU'LL *KNOW.*

FLASH, *RUN!*

GOT TO BE ON MY *FEET* FIRST! GIVE ME A HAND *UP!*

THEN SING *LOUD* AND *HIGH,* AND *FORGET* ABOUT *LAVAMAN.*

WHAT KIND OF A *VOCAL RANGE* DO YOU HAVE?

I'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH HYPERSONICS. WHY?

IF I ADD MY *VIBRATIONS--*

TO YOUR *SONICS--*

--WE CAN PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THE MICROWAVES WITH A COUNTER-FREQUENCY--

--LONG ENOUGH TO TURN THE MAGNETRON INTO SCRAP!

KRANGANGANG

YOU FOOLS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

C'MON! UP! THE COLD WON'T TAKE LONG TO SETTLE BACK IN!

AS LOATH AS I AM TO ADMIT IT--I'M DEPENDING ON YOU TO GET ME OUT OF HERE BEFORE I FREEZE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT--

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, ARREST HIM? MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! WE'LL COME BACK FOR HIM IF WE DON'T GET ANSWERS IN CALIFORNIA!

GO! GO!

From the journal of Vandal Savage:

For weeks, I have contemplated how best to confront my former allies LOCUS--they who would transform the WORLD.

When a man has lived 50,000 years, he gets used to taking his time making decisions...

...unless, of course...

...someone forces his HAND.

The end of all we know may well be UPON us, but if I go DOWN... I drag my ENEMIES along WITH me...

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

MY RING'S TRANSLATING YOUR UNDERWATER SPEECH, IF THAT'S THE QUESTION. I CAN HEAR YOU THROUGH THESE SPEAKERS. GUESS IF YOU CAN LIVE UNDERWATER, YOU CAN TALK THERE...

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS GIVING ORDERS?

LEAD THE WAY. I'LL TAKE POINT ONCE WE HIT BOTTOM. THEN I'LL NEED YOU TO--

BECAUSE I'M THE TEAM LEADER.

AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

WHAT? WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

YOU'RE NOT THE LEADER. FLASH IS THE LEADER!

...

WHAT?

J'ONN, CANARY, AND I TALKED ABOUT THIS WEEKS AGO! IT'S OBVIOUS TO US!

THEN... WHY...?

WHY DOES FLASH LET YOU BOSS US AROUND? WE JUST FIGURED HE WAS LETTING YOU BE YOU.

CAREFUL. WE'RE AT THE DEEPEST SPOT ON EARTH. PRESSURE'S UNCANNY. PUMP UP THE WILL POWER...

KRRKK

...!"LEADER."

HEH.

KKRKK

HERE'S OUR SEISMIC DISTURBANCE. JUDGING BY THE THRUM OF THIS THING, IT'S BORING THROUGH THE EARTH'S CRUST. WHAT HAPPENS IF IT STRIKES MAGMA?

INSTANT UNDERWATER VOLCANO. TIDAL WAVES AROUND THE ENTIRE PACIFIC RIM. WE HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN.

BUT HOW? EVEN I CAN'T SEE DOWN HERE. CAN YOU PUT OUT MORE LIGHT?

SURE. JUST LET ME CONCENTR--

THWAM!

FWAM!

:UNNNH!:

LANTERN!

LANTERN, WHAT IS IT? I CAN'T SEE! GIVE US MORE LIGHT!

TRYING! CAN'T-- FOCUS--!

IT WON'T LET UP! THE LIGHT MAKES ME ITS TARGET! CAN'T TELL--

THWAM!

--WHERE IT'S COMING FROM NEXT!

IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO PUT UP A DEFENSE! SEND AN OCTOPUS AFTER IT OR SOMETHING!

THERE ARE NO BIG FISH AT THIS DEPTH! THERE ARE ONLY--

OKAY. YOU'RE FEARLESS, RIGHT?

LET'S PUT THAT TO THE TEST.

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU--?

LOOK, I DON'T TRUST YOU ANY MORE THAN YOU TRUST ME RIGHT NOW. PUT THAT ASIDE OR WE WON'T SURVIVE.

WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, FOLLOW MY COMMAND!

NOW!

CHOOM!

NNNHHH!

IT *WORKED!* THE BOTTOM-FEEDERS ARE *BORN* TO WITH-STAND THIS PRESSURE!

THEIR SKINS *PROTECTED* YOU LONG ENOUGH TO USE THE RING AS A *LURE!*

WHAT ABOUT THE *BEAST?*

LET HIM *BE.* WE'VE GOT *OTHER* FISH TO FR--

--*OTHER* PROBLEMS TO SOLVE. CALIFORNIA, HERE WE *COME!*

Guys-- Snapper here. In case I'm on the lam when you get back, we've got a new problem. I'm somewhere trying to talk Uncle Simon off the ledge.

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

He called me a little while ago, really upset. Started babbling about dreams and aliens and possession and I don't know what else.

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

He was choking it out, like it was tough for him to talk, and he was scared.

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

TAK TAK TAK

He asked me not to tell you, but

KZZZKKT

THERE THEY ARE! YOU TWO HAVE ANY LUCK?

BUSTED UP A MACHINE. LOCUS HAD ONE OF THEIR "ALTERED STATES" GUYS PROTECTING IT. YOU?

SOMETHING WAS DOWN THERE. THANKS FOR CONFIRMING IT WAS LOCUS. WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

OUR OPPONENT SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "CHANGING THE EARTH." THAT'S WHY THEY'VE TAKEN ON WEIRD FORMS--TO SURVIVE THEIR OWN HANDIWORK.

BUT SPEAKING OF WEIRD FORMS, I DON'T SEE ANYONE STANDING WATCH OVER THIS AREA--

OH, NO? LOOK AGAIN!

WELL, GREAT. IF WE HAD ANY LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT WHICH SIDE OUR FORMER TEAMMATE IS PLAYING FOR, THIS SETTLES EVERYTHING.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MACHINE DOES--

--BUT THEY'RE USING J'ONN TO GUARD IT!

SLOW DOWN! WE CAN'T BE SURE WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, REMEMBER?

J'ONN'S ALWAYS BEEN FULL OF SECRETS. SUPPOSE HE NEGLECTED TO TELL US ABOUT HIS "DEATHVISION" OR SOMETHING.

WE KNOW ONLY ONE WAY TO TAKE HIM DOWN FOR CERTAIN...

...AND THAT'S

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE

OF HIS ONE WEAKNESS!

FLASH? WHAT ARE YOU--

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ADD FRICTION TO A SITUATION, J'ONN.

STAND DOWN.

THWAM!

AAAARGH!

NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

THE FIRE! EXTINGUISH THE FIRE!

NOT A CHANCE, TRAITOR!

BUT--THE MACHINE--

--THE FIRE-- THE--

--OHHHH--

WHOOSH!

WHAT THE--?

I TRIED... TO TELL YOU... TO KEEP THE FIRE AWAY. THE MACHINE... I WAS ATTEMPTING TO SHUT IT DOWN SAFELY.

IT WAS PUMPING... METHANE-BASED GASES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE!

NOT ONLY ARE THEY DEADLY TO HUMAN LIFE...

...THEY'RE FLAMMABLE!

TO BE CONTINUED!